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OSLISLO, ZIMMERMAN, SMITH RECORD KEY VICTORIES; BENCIVENGA, HALPIN, ROPER WIN

Cougar Wrestlers Roll Past Scrappy SPF Raiders, 44-15

By **DAVID B. CORBIN**

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Experience was definitely on the side of the visiting Cranford High School wrestling team that recorded a 44-15 victory over a scrappy Raider squad in Scotch Plains on January 4. The 4-0 Cougars won 10 of the 14 bouts but the primary focus was on three bouts in the upper weight classes that featured tough opponents on both teams.

The match began at the 106-lb class where Raider Ethan Costanzo was trailing Ronan

Waters, 2-0, but managed to clamp him in a cradle 21 seconds into the second period to give the Raiders a 6-0 team lead. But the fans were really waiting for the showdowns that were to come towards the later portion of the match, beginning at 182-lbs with Raider Alex Oslislo facing Justin Alpaugh-McLean and following with bouts between Cougar Zach Blevins and Zach Zimmerman at 195-lbs and Raider Eddie Smith and Matt Doran at 220-lbs.

"Cranford, they are a tough team. They got their kids going

in the off-season. You see they are coached very well. They are talented. We are young, we are inexperienced but man, not getting pinned, wrestling tough for six minutes coming up to our hammers! You can see the philosophy that we are teaching, aggressiveness, non stop, conditioning. You can see that the younger guys are picking it up. Even our 106 pounder, Ethan Costanzo, getting a pin. That was outstanding," Raider Head Coach Marc Fabiano expressed.

Oslislo initiated a single trip takedown and Alpaugh-McLean escaped but Oslislo used his football skills to add a double-leg tackle. Oslislo let his opponent

up in an effort to add another takedown but the first period ended. Oslislo escaped in the second period to take a 5-2 lead then Alpaugh-McLean escaped in the third period. The two battled on their feet but when Alpaugh-McLean attempted a throw, Oslislo countered with a

five-point lateral drop to claim a 10-3 decision.

"We have been working on the upper body throws. You can see it in his eyes, he believes in himself. He believes his skills. He's pushing Eddie. He's pushing Zimm. They are pushing each other. It's only going to get better from here," Coach Fabiano promised.

"A few kids on my team have wrestled him before. I love the double leg, trying to perfect it. This week we have been working a lot on throws, so when I was on the body lock, I felt comfortable. That's where I wanted to be," Oslislo said.

At 195-lbs, Blevins began with a lift-and-spin takedown and Zimmerman escaped. In the sec-

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